

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 1-18 are allowed. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the language highlighted by the Examiner and claims 16-18 have been expressly presented in independent form.

The specification was objected to in the Office action for failing to have headings throughout the application. The specification has been amended to include headings as requested in the Office Action and a new Abstract.

The Office Action has rejected the specification for failing to provide antecedent basis for the terms first annular flange, first annular seal and second annular seal. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdrawal this rejection. 37 C.F.R. §1.75(d)(1) provides that:

[t]he claim or claims must conform to the invention as set forth in the remainder of the specification and the terms and phrases used in the claims must find clear support or antecedent basis in the description so that the meaning of the terms in the claims may be ascertainable by reference to the description.

37 C.F.R. §1.75(d)(1) (2004)

The Applicant respectfully urges that the claim terms first annular flange, first annular seal and second annular seal are clearly supported in the specification. For example, the first annular flange is described throughout the specification with

reference to axially extending inner and outer annular flanges 20 and 21. Upon review of the specification and the drawings the reader should find clear support that the first annular flange is defined by one of the axially extended inner and outer annular flanges which extend into an annular cavity in the turbine housing.

The Office Action further recites that the first and second annular seals lack antecedent basis in the specification. Upon review of the specification it is believed that clear support is provided for these annular seals throughout the application. The first and second annular seals are represented in the various embodiments by feature numbers such as 26, 36 and 37. Applicant respectfully urges that there is clear support in the specification for the terms first annular seal and second annular seal and therefore it is not necessary to make the requested amendments to the specification.

Included with the Office Action response is a revised drawing of Figure 1 illustrating the changes suggested by the Examiner. Feature number 11 has been added to call out the vane support ring and feature number 11a calls out the support pin. The vane support ring 11 is illustrated as being mounted on the support pin 11a. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to issue an early Notice of Allowability for the present application. If there are any remaining issues that the Examiner believes could be addressed in a telephone call the undersigned would welcome such a call to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



John H. Allie, Reg. No. 39088
Barnes & Thornburg LLP
11 South Meridian Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-3335
Tel.: (317) 261-7944
Fax: (317) 231-7433

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicant's representative submits herewith an amended drawing showing proposed changes to Figure 1. The amended drawing is fully supported by the original disclosure and adds no new subject matter.